

Comparative Literature Program



Manual for Policies and Procedures for Graduate Students

Stanley Coulter Hall
School of Languages and Cultures
640 Oval Drive, Room 146E
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2039 U.S.A.
Telephone: (765) 496-2895
telistra@purdue.edu

<https://www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/slc/l/complit/index.html>

<https://www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/slc/l/complit/graduate/index.html>

Checklist and Instructions for Graduate Admission Comparative Literature Program, Purdue University

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|--|
| Department | 1. _____ | <p>Application for admission and \$60 domestic/\$75 international application fee submitted directly to the Graduate School.</p> <p>The Graduate School requires an electronic application. This electronic application can be accessed by going to:
http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/admissions/how/index.html</p> <p>Indicate “Comparative Literature”.</p> <p>If you will not have the Masters (or its equivalent) when you enter our graduate program, please select “Master’s Degree” even if your eventual goal is the Ph.D.</p> |
| Degree or Enrollment Objective | | |
| Statement of Purpose | 2. _____ | <p>In this statement be sure to describe your long range goals and your preparation and background in research and writing. You may wish to describe your prior work experiences and cite any published works. (Must be two pages.) This may be submitted with your application.</p> |
| Transcripts | 3. _____ | <p>You must upload to the online application transcripts and/or academic documents for every institution of higher education you attended. If a transcript is not in English, you must upload an English translation certified by the college or university which it was issued. This includes both the transcript and diploma. The uploaded transcripts and/or academic document must be from the official version of the document. An official transcript bears the original signature of the registrar and/or the original seal of the issuing institution. All transcripts and/or academic documents uploaded to the online application system are considered unofficial. You will need to provide official transcripts and/or academic records at the request of the graduate program or if you are admitted and choose to enroll. These materials must be sent to: Graduate Studies Office, Comparative Literature Program, Purdue University, Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education, Room 6180, 100 North University Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907.</p> |

TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo Scores

4. _____ Required if your native language is not English. The minimum Internet-Based Test (iBT) scores* required for admission are the following: writing – 18, speaking – 18, listening – 14; reading – 19, total – 80. The Graduate school also accepts valid* International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores (Academic Module). An overall band score of 6.5 is required for admission with the following requirements: reading – 6.5; listening – 6.0; speaking – 6.0; writing – 5.5 For more information, visit www.ielts.org. The required minimum Duolingo score is 115 (with a minimum score of 115 in each area). The Graduate School will routinely waive the TOEFL/IELTS for applicants who have received a baccalaureate degree or graduate or professional degree, within the last 36 months, from a school where English is the primary language of instruction in a country/location where English is the native language. The official test score can be uploaded to the online application under Miscellaneous Supporting Documents, sent electronically to the Office of International Students and Scholars or the hard copy can be mailed directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions.
- To be valid for admissions, English proficiency test scores (TOEFL and IELTS) must be no more than two years old at the time the recommendation for admission is received at the Graduate School.

Writing Sample

5. _____ An academic paper written in English, consisting of at least 10 pages. This may be submitted with your application.

Letters of Recommendation

6. _____ Three (3) letters of recommendation from persons familiar with your academic ability. There is a form on the electronic application to submit reviewer names. An email request will be sent to them directly. Electronic copies may also be sent to Tatiana Elistratova (telistra@purdue.edu).

Deadline

7. _____ December 1.

Item #3 must be sent to: Graduate Studies Office, Comparative Literature Program, Purdue University, School of Languages and Cultures, 640 Oval Drive, West Lafayette IN 47907, USA.
Applications for admission that include requests for financial support must be completed and in our office by **December 1st**.

Introduction

Comparative Literature fosters the cooperation between the School of Languages and various other departments in the College of Liberal Arts at Purdue University, especially the English Department, History, and Visual and Performing Arts. The program achieves this purpose by encouraging the study of literature, by promoting the study of a second or third foreign language, and by sponsoring courses and dissertations that cut across national boundaries. Comparative Literature recognizes that some fields – classics, medieval studies, Renaissance, post-colonial – are inherently comparative and seeks to facilitate the work of students and scholars in these fields. The program also recognizes the role of other disciplines – particularly history and philosophy, but also the social sciences, for example ecology, and psychology, in developing theoretical approaches to literature. While recognizing the value of languages and cultural studies and encouraging investigations based in these disciplines, the program recognizes that other areas make these disciplines their priority. Comparative Literature takes as its special mandate the teaching and comparing of world literature, not only as social documents, but also as works of art whose full appreciation depends on the study of languages, an understanding of diversity and globalization, and an appreciation of various media.

It is the strength of the Comparative Literature program that students can draw faculty advisers and research questions from several academic departments (the School of Languages of Cultures, English, History, Visual and Performing Arts, Film). We have the flexibility and resources to accommodate individualized plans of study for qualified students. Students have the opportunity to pursue their MA or PhD degrees with focus on the following literatures in the original language: British, Chinese, French (both continental and francophone), German, Classical Greek, Italian, Japanese, Latin (classical and medieval), Portuguese (Luso-Brazilian), Russian, Spanish (both Peninsular and Spanish/American), and American literature. In addition, the student may work in areas such as Cultural Studies, Feminist Thought, Folklore, Literary Theory, Philosophy of Aesthetics, Postcolonial Studies, Gender Studies, Rhetoric, and Visual Culture. In addition to the body of knowledge and methodology appropriate to each individual program of study, students acquire a familiarity with the history, methods, and bibliography of Comparative Literature through a core seminar (ENGL 50100 or LC 63000), required of all incoming students in their first semester) and with the corpus of critical approaches and literary theory. In coursework pertaining to their special areas, students are strongly encouraged to design their research papers along comparative lines.

The following guidelines describe the requirements for master's and doctoral students and are designed to introduce our program and to assist students in planning their graduate study. Included are "Check Lists" which summarize the requirements for both degrees.

Additional information concerning Graduate School requirements and deadlines is provided in the *Graduate School Policies & Procedures Manual* <https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/documents/graduate-school-policies-and-procedures-manual.pdf>), which also offers a complete listing of Comparative Literature courses.

Steering Committee:

Beate Allert
Elena Coda
Hongjian Wang
Shaun Hughes
Jennifer William

Faculty affiliated with Comparative Literature at Purdue University

Ahmed Idrissi Alami: Associate Professor SLC, Arabic and Comparative Literature; Literary Theory; Cultural Studies

Beate I. Allert: Professor of German and Comparative Literatures, esp. 18th & 19th centuries; literary theory and culture studies; optics & metaphor; Ekphrasis, visual/verbal; travel lit; fables; poetry; environmentalism, sense perceptions; cognition; aesthetics & ethics; cinema.

Dorsey Armstrong: Professor, English, Department, British Literature; Arthurian Literature; Medieval Romance; Anglo-Saxon; Gender and Feminist Studies

Robyn A. Bartlett, Associate Professor of English, English Department, Medieval Studies

Pedro Bassoe: Assistant Professor, SLC, Japanese Literature, Comparative Literature

Tithi Bhattacharya: Associate Professor of History, Indian and South Asian Studies, Global South, Women Studies

Elena Coda: Professor of Italian, Head of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, 19th and 20th century Italian literature, Modernity

Paul Dixon: Professor, SLC, Portuguese and Spanish, Literature; Literary Theory; Cinema; Comparative Literature

Catherine Dossin: Associate Professor Visual and Performing Arts, Cultural Transfers, Exhibition History, and Historiography

Angelica Duran: Professor, English Department, British Literature; 16th-century and 17th-century literature, primarily English and Spanish, Disability Studies; Religious Studies, natural philosophy/science, and educational reforms; Comparative Literature

Dino Felluga: Professor English Department, British Literature, nineteenth-century literature (especially poetry), media studies, and critical theory, digital humanities

theory, poststructuralism, women's writing, feminist theory, and theory and history of sexuality

Ariel de la Fuente: Professor, History Department, Global History, Latin American History, Latin American Literature, Literary Studies, Intellectual History.

Stacy Holden: Professor, History Department, Modern Middle East and North Africa, U.S. Engagement with the Arab World

Shaun D.F. Hughes: Professor, English Department, Old Norse/Icelandic Literature and Culture, Old and Middle English Language and Literature, African, British Literature, Postcolonial Literature and World Literatures

Yonsoo Kim: Associate Professor, Spanish Literature, Medieval Studies

Cara Kinnally: Associate Professor of Spanish, SLC, Director of Graduate Studies in SLC, Mexican and Mexican American Literature; Latinx Studies and Literature; Border Studies; Empire Studies and (Post) Colonia Theory; Critical Race Theory.

Rebekah A. Klein-Pejšova, Associate Professor of History, Human Rights History, Modern Jewish History, Modern East Central European History

Kristin Leaman, Assistant Professor, Libraries and School of Information Studies
Assistant Professor, (by courtesy) Department of English

Olga Lyanda-Geller, Assistant Professor of Russian and Comparative Literature, Languages and Cultures

Paula Leverage: Associate Professor of French, School of Languages and Cultures, Old French and Occitan Literature; Cognitive literary analysis; Memory and Rhetoric; Film; Comparative Literature

Alfred Lopez: Professor of English, Head of the English Department, the Global South. Cuban & Cuban-America studies, Latin American & Caribbean studies

Robert Marzec: Professor of English, Contemporary British & Postcolonial and contemporary literatures, environmentalism

Erin Moodie: Associate Professor, School of Languages and Cultures, Greek and Latin Literatures, especially comedy and satire.

Song No: Associate Professor, Spanish & Latin

American studies

Aparajita Sagar: Associate Professor of English, English Department, Women's Studies, Indian and South Asian Literatures

Aletha Stahl; Assistant Professor in Comparative Literature, Digital Humanities, literary theory

Dawn Stinchcomb: Associate Professor of Spanish in the School of Languages and Cultures, Afro-Hispanic Literatures and Culture, Hispanic Caribbean Literature

Margaret Mih Tillman: Associate Professor of History, History Department, Asian Studies, China

Tulin Tosin: Alumna in Comparative Literature from Purdue U, lecturer in CMPL and Cornerstone

Jeffrey Turco: Associate Professor of German, School of Languages and Cultures, Old Norse-Icelandic Literature, Medieval German Literature, Germanic Folklore and Mythography, Wagner, Medieval Italian Literature.

Germina Nadège Veldwachter: Associate Professor of French, School of Languages and Cultures, Francophone Literature, Postcolonial Studies

Hongjian Route Wang: Associate Professor of Chinese, School of Languages and Cultures, Modern and contemporary Chinese Literature, film, theater, print media, cultural history; comparative literature, decadence, comedy the avant-garde reflexivity.

Jennifer William: Head of the School of Languages and Cultures and Professor of German 20th & 21st centuries' literature and film; cognitive approaches to literature; Jewish Studies; Women's Studies

Offices and Staff

Beate Allert

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General

Advising

Entering students in Comparative Literature graduate studies at Purdue University will be counseled initially by the Director of Comparative Literature and/or soon will be assigned to an advisor in the department of their main research area. By the end of their first year of studies, students choose their major professor (an expert in their field of research and affiliated faculty with the program in Comparative Literature at Purdue U who has agreed to serve in that role), and, in consultation with this major professor, an additional two faculty members for the M.A. degree (exam or thesis option), or three faculty members for the PhD degree as their advisory committee members. This is documented in the Plan of Study POS initiated by the student. Prior to the formal start of work on the dissertation, after the Prelim Exams, doctoral students should have formally filed their Plan of Study with the Graduate School naming all four members of their PhD members as needed for the dissertation project. Only after all course requirements are completed, after the prelim exams, and after the formal defense of the prospectus for the dissertation. will PhD program students be called “A.B.D.” (all but dissertation) and hence be “advanced to candidacy for the PhD.”

The advisory committee is the liaison between the student and the Director in matters such as plans of study, course registration, monitoring of academic progress, retention in program or termination, and scheduling of doctoral preliminary examinations. The student’s advisory committee and the Director of Comparative Literature certify the completion of degree requirements. The graduate student coordinator (what used to be the graduate secretary) can help students to answer any questions in this regard.

Minimum Registration Requirements

All students are expected to make steady progress toward their degrees. Students holding a half-time assistantship must register for a minimum of six hours per semester. Students on scholarships and fellowships are expected to register for at least eight hours per semester, or as directed by the award. Additional rules on how many credit hours are needed or concerning teaching load apply to international students.

Residency Requirements

Residency requirements for graduate degrees are governed by rules specified in the *Graduate School Policies & Procedures Manual* (<https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/documents/graduate-school-policies-and-procedures-manual.pdf>); at least one-third of the course work must be taken during continuous residency.

Transfer Credits

With the approval of the student’s academic advisor and the Director of Comparative Literature, up to twelve credit hours from graduate level courses may be transferred (applied) toward the master’s student’s M.A. degree. These credits must be from and outside university, must be appropriate for a Comparative Literature plan of study, have been earned within the last five years and have carried a “B” or better. Such credits must be requested in writing with transcript and course content documentation. Petitions for transfer credits should be submitted in the student’s first year of graduate course work at Purdue.

Up to thirty credit hours from a Ph.D. student’s MA degree can be transferred (applied) towards the student’s Ph.D. The courses can be from an M.A. earned at Purdue or an outside university and must have been earned within the last five years and carry a “B” or better. The courses cannot have been included in the course list of their POS in an M.A. earned at Purdue and must be approved by their committee and the Director of Comparative Literature

Incompletes

In those rare cases in which an Incomplete is legitimate, the academic regulation of the University Senate applies: “The student must achieve a permanent grade in the course no later than the twelfth week of the

second subsequent semester, or the I-grade will revert to a failing grade.” Summer semester is not counted as a “subsequent semester”.

Assistantships

Assistantships are awarded competitively to incoming students who have satisfied our criteria, which are listed below. Students already in residence who have not been appointed to an assistantship may apply for one in writing by January 10. Letters from at least two instructors at Purdue with whom they have studied are required. Please upload a less than 5-minute audio tape in the context of your application if you want a Teaching Assistantship in any of the Languages the School of Languages and Literatures at Purdue University offers. See application guidelines.

School of Languages and Literatures: Send an essay in the language in question and a taped recording first in English and then in that language you would like to teach as a Teaching Assistant. It should include an autobiographical statement, say what your focus or study goal will be, and why you want to study at Purdue University in the Comparative Literature program. You may get a phone appointment for a hollow-up interview.

Department of English: Eligibility for a teaching assistantship is determined by the Director of Freshman Composition. International students applying for a teaching assistantship must have a minimum TOEFL (iBT) speaking score of at least 27. All test scores must be official from the testing center. If you wish to be considered for a teaching assistantship, we encourage you to include, either in your statement of purpose or among your letters of recommendation (or in both), an indication of your experience and/or interest in teaching. Comparative Literature also accepts the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores. An overall band score of 6.5 is required for admission. A score of 7.0 in the speaking section is required if you wish to be considered for a teaching assistantship in the Department of English.

The salary for a teaching or research assistantship is paid in bi-weekly installments during the academic year. The deadline for a completed application file is January 10 if the applicant is seeking an assistantship.

University Fellowships

Purdue Doctoral, Chappelle, Knox, and Lynn Fellowships are designated principally for incoming students. Bilslund Dissertation Fellowships are intended to provide support to Ph.D. students in their final year of doctoral degree completion. Purdue Research Foundation Grants (year-long and summer grants) are designed for dissertation research. For further information on these stipends, please consult the Graduate School's funding page (<http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/funding/>) or contact the Graduate School's Fellowship Office (765) 494-2598 or gradinfo@purdue.edu. Applicants who hope to be nominated for University fellowships must have completed their application files by December 15..

Guidelines for the M.A. Student

Applicants to the Master of Arts program are expected to have completed the equivalent of a bachelor's degree in either English or another language, or else to have a strong minor in one or more of these areas as part of a liberal arts background. Undergraduate courses in two of the following – world literature, literary criticism, classical literature, medieval, Renaissance, or Reformation literatures – are additional prerequisites. Applicants lacking some of the foundations but otherwise well qualified may be admitted on the condition that they take certain prerequisite courses without credit.

The Master of Arts program in Comparative Literature includes a core course (CMPL 63000/ENGL 50100) in methods and objectives of comparative study, required of all students in the program. In addition, variable title seminars in Comparative Literature (CMPL 65000), as well as cross-listed seminars of an interdisciplinary nature in the various fields or represented by various departments are available to CMPL students each semester.

Thesis Option

This option consists of the core course, plus five courses of literary study in the area of primary interests and three allied courses of study in a second area. The thesis always will involve at least two areas and will be directed by faculty representing these areas. Ten CMPL 500 or 600 level courses in total are required before the Prelims (30 credit hours).

Non-Thesis Option

This option consists of the core course, plus five courses of literary study in the area of primary interest and three allied courses of study in a second area. In addition, the non-thesis option includes three hours of study in a third area. Ten CMPL 500 or 600 level courses in total are required before the Prelims (30 credit hours),

Reading List

Knowledge of a bibliography of basic books in Comparative Literature will be required of all students. They will actively be involved in creating their own bibliography or compile it together with their major professor and Comparative Literature affiliated advisory committee members. The list must be approved by all committee members and is geared towards the student's research frame (century and major field) and focus (research question aimed expertise) in Comparative Literature. More than one nationality, language, or culture must be included and it can also contain film, not exclusively literature..

M.A. Written Examination

Written examinations are typically administered in the 10th week of the student's fourth semester in the M.A. program. The major professor, as Chair of the M.A. Advisory Committee, must present the Director of Comparative Literature with the complete text of a proposed written examination by no later than the Monday of the 8th week of the semester in which the examination is to be administered. The Director of Comparative Literature will either approve this proposed examination, or suggest revisions.

Examination questions are typically composed by the major professor and the other members of the M.A. Advisory Committee, according to the general guidelines. Occasionally some examination questions are contributed by faculty other than those on the student's committee; in such instances the contributing faculty should also be asked to read and grade the student's answers to the questions these faculty have composed. Questions cannot be shared with the students before the exams and the exams are to be performed according to strict honor code.

The major professor, as Chair of the M.A. Advisory Committee, must arrange for a room in which to administer the examination.

On the Days of the Exam:

The Administrative Assistant of the Comparative Literature program will send electronically the questions assigned for that particular day. Students may choose either the 24/7 model or the 3-day model. This decision is made by individual student and their committee members.

At the end of the session, the student will send the test papers electronically to the Administrative Assistant of the Comparative Literature Program, as well as to the Chair and all members of the M.A. Advisory Committee for grading.

Grading Procedures:

Each member of the M.A. Advisory Committee will receive an electronic copy of the student's examination papers from the Administrative Assistant of Comparative Literature. The grading scale is as follows: HP (High Pass, work clearly distinguished by excellence); P (Pass, entirely satisfactory and solid work); LP (Low Pass, acceptable but undistinguished work); or F (Failure, unacceptable work requiring that the examination be taken again).

Grading should be completed with all feasible dispatch. The period between the administration of a written examination and the award of a grade can be very stressful for the student, so it is important to keep this as short as possible. In no case should the entire grading process exceed 14 days beyond the first day of the examination itself.

The Chair of the M.A. Advisory Committee will:

- Read and evaluate the examination as a whole;
- Collect and complete evaluation forms from the Administrative Assistant;
- Based on the reports of all readers, suggest a final grade for each section of the examination; and
- Suggest a cumulative grade for the written examination.

The Director of Comparative Literature will then, after conferring with the Chair of the M.A. Advisory Committee, award official grades to each section and an official cumulative grade to the entire examination.

The Director of Comparative Literature will notify the student, the members of the M.A. Advisory Committee, and the members of the Steering Committee of the Comparative Literature Program, of the student's official cumulative grade for the entire examination.

Foreign Language Requirement

Each graduate student in Comparative Literature works in three areas of specialization. If the first or second of these is a national literature, it must be studied in the original language. If the third area of specialization is a national literature, it may be studied in English translation.

For the MA, the student must also demonstrate proficiency (at least reading knowledge) in one additional language other than English and the student's major language of study. The student, in consultation with their committee, will determine which language would be most appropriate for the student's program, which may include the student's native language(s), if that language is neither English nor the major language of study.

This language requirement may be met in any of the following ways:

- a. by examination in the language;
- b. by completing the language course 202 or higher in the language with a minimum grade of B (3.0);
- c. by completing the equivalent of 202 or higher in the language with a minimum grade of B (3.0) at another institution within five years of beginning the SLC graduate program.

This additional language requirement must be satisfied before the final MA examination may be scheduled.

Plan of Study

The student, in consultation with the Director of Comparative Literature, begins preparation for the drafting of a Plan of Study. This process includes the choosing of a committee – for the M.A., an M.A. Advisory Committee – and a major professor who will chair that committee. At the M.A. level, the committee will typically be composed of the major professor plus two other committee members. It is the student's responsibility to approach each of these professors in order to ascertain their willingness to participate on the committee.

The student, in consultation with the major professor, drafts a proposed Plan of Study. This must be submitted using the Electronic Plan of Study guidelines provided by the Graduate School (Please see the

link on the Comparative Literature website.). This must be submitted to the Director of Comparative Literature no later than the 10th week of the student's second semester in the M.A. program. The Director of Comparative Literature will either approve this plan or suggest revisions.

Admission to the Ph.D. Program

Purdue Comparative Literature M.A. students wishing to be admitted to the doctoral program in Comparative Literature must submit a formal letter of application to the Director of Comparative Literature early in the semester proceeding the academic year they wish to enter doctoral studies. The letter should indicate the applicant's proposed major field for the Ph.D. and the major professor with whom the applicant will work. The letter should also state whether the applicant seeks financial support for the Ph.D. program. In addition, they should submit an updated statement of purpose and one (1) letter of recommendation from a Comparative Literature faculty member. Those planning to enter the Ph.D. program in the fall semester and seeking financial support must submit their letters no later than December 1.

“The following page contains a checklist summary of all requirements for the M.A. degree in Comparative Literature.”

Checklist for the M.A. Student

- ☐ Provide Graduate School with documents required as stated in letter of acceptance. These may include the following:

- ☐ English proficiency examinations
- ☐ Final transcripts and/or official evidence of B.A. awarded.

These documents must be in the Graduate School during the first semester of enrollment.

- ☐ Complete course requirements:

- ☐ CMPL 63000 / ENGL 50100 3 hrs.
(Required courses)

- ☐ Courses in Major Field 12 hrs.

☐ _____
☐ _____
☐ _____
☐ _____
☐ _____

- ☐ Courses in Secondary Field 9 hrs.

☐ _____
☐ _____
☐ _____

- ☐ Courses in Third Field (Non-Thesis) 3 hrs.

☐ _____

- ☐ Thesis (Thesis Option Only) 3 hrs.

 30 hrs.
 (equals ten 500 or 600 level CMPL courses taken before prelims)

- ☐ Form M.A. Committee

Committee must have a chair (your major professor) who is a member of the Comparative Literature faculty from your major field. Committee must have at least two additional members.

_____, Chair; _____; _____

- ☐ File Plan of Study

A Plan must be submitted by the 10th week of the second full semester of study. You must have all coursework added and committee changes made to the Plan no later than the end of the semester prior to the semester in which you plan to receive the degree. Please see the Comparative Literature web site (<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/complit/>) for information on completing the Plan of Study.

- ☐ Written Examinations – See guidelines above for more information.

- ☐ Declare degree candidacy:

When registering for the final semester, coordinate with the Administrative Assistant through email that you are a degree candidate. You will need to decide if you should register as a general candidate, or special candidate “Exam Only” or “Degree Only”.

Guidelines for the Ph.D. Program Student in CMPL

Applicants to the Ph.D. program are expected to have completed a master's program in a literature area or a reasonable equivalent i.e., a master's program of approximately nine or ten semester-length graduate courses in literature, or in literature in conjunction with related subjects (e.g., rhetoric, philosophy, aesthetics, history of art, and other humanities).

The Master of Arts program in Comparative Literature includes a core course (CMPL 63000/ENGL 50100) in methods and objectives of comparative study, required of all students in the program (if this has not already been taken). In addition, three or more courses in the major area (9 hours); three or more courses in the second area (9 hours); one or more courses in a third area (3 hours); one course devoted to the consideration of the nature of language (3 hours); and a minimum of two seminars in Comparative Literature beyond the M.A. degree (6 hours).

Plan of Study

The student, in consultation with the Director of Comparative Literature, begins preparation for the drafting of a Plan of Study. This process includes the choosing of a committee – for the Ph.D., a Preliminary Examination Committee – and a major professor who will chair that committee. At the Ph.D. level, the committee will typically be composed of the major professor plus three other committee members. It is the student's responsibility to approach each of these professors in order to ascertain their willingness to participate on the committee.

The student, in consultation with the major professor, drafts a proposed Plan of Study. This must be submitted using the Electronic Plan of Study guidelines provided by the Graduate School (Please see the link on the Comparative Literature website.). This must be submitted to the Director of Comparative Literature no later than the 10th week of the student's second semester in the Ph.D. program. The Director of Comparative Literature will either approve this plan or suggest revisions.

Foreign Language Requirement

Each graduate student in Comparative Literature works in three areas of specialization. If the first or second of these is a national literature, it must be studied in the original language. If the third area of specialization is a national literature, it may be studied in English translation.

For the PhD, the student must also demonstrate proficiency (at least reading knowledge) in one additional language other than English and the student's major language of study. The student, in consultation with their committee, will determine which language would be most appropriate for the student's program, which may include the student's native language(s), if that language is neither English nor the major language of study.

This language requirement may be met in any of the following ways:

- a. by examination in the language;
- b. by completing the language course 202 or higher in the language with a minimum grade of B (3.0);
- c. by completing the equivalent of 202 or higher in the language with a minimum grade of B (3.0) at another institution within five years of beginning the SLC graduate program.

This additional language requirement must be satisfied before the final MA examination may be scheduled.

Ph.D. Written Examination

Written examinations are typically administered in the 10th week of the student's fourth semester in the Ph.D. program. The major professor, as Chair of the Ph.D. Preliminary Examination Committee, must present the Director of Comparative Literature with the complete text of a proposed written examination by no later than the Monday of the 8th week of the semester in which the examination is to be administered. The Director of Comparative Literature will either approve this proposed examination, or suggest revisions.

Examination questions are typically composed by the major professor and the other members of the Ph.D. Preliminary Examination Committee, according to the general guidelines. Occasionally some examination questions are contributed by faculty other than those on the student's committee; in such instances the contributing faculty should also be asked to read and grade the student's answers to the questions these faculty have composed. The major professor, as Chair of the Ph.D. Preliminary Examination Committee, must arrange for a room in which to administer the examination.

On the Days of the Exam:

The Administrative Assistant of the Comparative Literature will send electronically the questions assigned for that particular day. Students may choose either the 24/7 model or the 3-day model. This decision is made by the student and their committee members.

At the end of the session, the student will send the test papers electronically to the Administrative Assistant of the Comparative Literature Program, who will see that copies are distributed to the Chair and members of the Ph.D. Advisory Committee for grading.

Grading Procedures:

Each member of the Ph.D. Preliminary Examination Committee will receive a photocopy of the student's examination papers and an evaluation sheet from the Administrative Assistant of Comparative Literature. The grading scale is as follows: HP (High Pass, work clearly distinguished by excellence); P (Pass, entirely satisfactory and solid work); LP (Low Pass, acceptable but undistinguished work); or F (Failure, unacceptable work requiring that the examination be taken again).

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The Chair of the Ph.D. Preliminary Examination Committee will:

- Read and evaluate the examination as a whole;
- Collect and complete evaluation forms from the Administrative Assistant;
- Based on the reports of all readers, suggest a final grade for each section of the examination; and
- Suggest a cumulative grade for the written examination.

The Director of Comparative Literature will then, after conferring with the Chair of the Ph.D. Preliminary Examination Committee, award official grades to each section and an official cumulative grade to the entire examination.

The Director of Comparative Literature will notify the student, the members of the Ph.D. Preliminary Examination Committee, and the members of the Steering Committee of the Comparative Literature Program, of the student's official cumulative grade for the entire examination.

The Doctoral Dissertation

The dissertation and its successful oral defense represent the culmination of the candidate's program. The dissertation should be comparative in nature, and critical as well as scholarly. The candidate chooses the dissertation director in consultation with the Director of Comparative Literature. The dissertation committee usually consists of a minimum of four faculty members, the majority of whom regularly participate in the Comparative Literature Program.

At least two sessions of research and writing must take place between a doctoral student's preliminary and final examinations. (i.e., if you take prelims in Spring 2012, you cannot defend your final dissertation until Spring 2013.)

Years-to-Degree Policy

The total elapsed time of a completed Ph.D. program in Comparative Literature, from admission to the completion of the final examination, shall be no more than eight years. Extensions of this limitation may be granted by the Director of Comparative Literature upon recommendation and justification by the Comparative Literature faculty or the Dean of the Graduate School, but may require reapproval of plans of study and/or retaking of preliminary examinations.

“The following page contains a checklist summary of all requirements for the Ph.D. degree in Comparative Literature.”

Checklist for the Ph.D. Student

- ☐ Provide Graduate School with documents required as stated in letter of acceptance. These may include the following:

- ☐ English proficiency examinations
- ☐ Final transcripts and/or official evidence of B.A. awarded.

These documents must be in the Graduate School during the first semester of enrollment.

- ☐ Complete course requirements:

☐ CMPL 63000 / ENGL 50100 3 hrs.
(Required courses)

- ☐ Courses or Seminars in Major Field

Comparative Literature

12 hrs.

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

- ☐ Courses in Secondary Field 9 hrs.

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

- ☐ Courses in Third Field 3 hrs.

- ☐ _____

- ☐ Course in the Nature of Language 3 hrs.

- ☐ _____

30 hrs.

- ☐ Form Ph.D. Committee

Committee must have a chair (your major professor) who is a member of the Comparative Literature faculty from your major field. Committee must have at least three additional members.

_____, Chair;

- ☐ File Plan of Study

A Plan must be submitted by the 10th week of the second full semester of study. You must have all coursework added and committee changes made to the Plan no later than the end of the semester prior to the semester in which you plan to receive the degree. Please see the Comparative Literature web site (<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/complit/>) for information on completing the Plan of Study.

- ☐ Fulfill language and/or research methods requirement.
This requirement must be completed before taking preliminary examinations.
- ☐ Written Examinations – See guidelines above for more information.
- ☐ Form Dissertation Committee
- ☐ Dissertation Prospectus Meeting
- ☐ Dissertation Format approval by Dissertation Committee
- ☐ Request for Final Examination
Students must submit their request to schedule the dissertation defense to the Administrative Assistant **no later than three (3) weeks** prior to the defense date.
- ☐ Final Examination (Defense of Dissertation)
- ☐ Declare degree candidacy:
When registering for the final semester, coordinate with the Administrative Assistant through email that you are a degree candidate. You will need to decide if you should register as a general candidate, or special candidate “Exam Only” or “Degree Only”.